

APALONE SPINIFERA (Spiny Softshell). USA: TENNESSEE: Polk Co.: Hiwassee River, Cherokee National Forest (35.21951°N 84.51798°W; WGS84). 28 May 2016. Stephen K. Nelson and Marcy Dochtermann. Verified by A. Floyd Scott. David H. Snyder Museum of Zoology, Austin Peay State University (APSU 19778, color photo). *A. spinifera* has previously been reported from Polk County (Powers, L. and M. L. Niemiller. 2013. Spiny Softshell (*Apalone spinifera*). In M. L. Niemiller, R. G. Reynolds, and B. T. Miller (eds.), *The Reptiles of Tennessee*. pp. 309–312. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville. 366 pp.). However,

this record represents the first vouchered record to be published as well as the first locality reported for Polk County (Redmond and Scott 2008. *Atlas of Reptiles in Tennessee*. The Center for Field Biology, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tennessee. Internet version, available at <http://apsu.edu/repatlas/> [updated 11 February 2016]; accessed 15 January 2017). An adult male found swimming. Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency permit #3620.

Submitted by **Stephen K. Nelson** (e-mail: snelson@zooknoxville.org) and **Marcy Dochtermann**, Zoo Knoxville, Knoxville, Tennessee 37914, USA.

23rd Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Herpetological Society

Middle Tennessee State University

September 28-29, 2017

Business Meeting Notes

Recorded by Stephanie Chance

Chad Lewis Memorial Grant Recipient:

Congratulations to Nicole Witzel for being awarded the 2017 Chad Lewis Memorial Grant for eDNA work on Streamside Salamander distributions.

Past Business:

Assessment of the Salamanders of Tennessee website transfer and the THS website. Discussion continued about formatting and domain names, use of the TWRA Watchable Wildlife Page and whether or not to redesign the THS website. A new website could include species accounts for all TN herpetofauna that could include member photos, species accounts, and range maps. Data Driven, a Nashville Company, was contacted about making revisions to the site. Motion was made by Josh Campbell to form a Public Relations Committee for website and Facebook communication. Volunteers included: Lisa Powers, Steven Nelson, Dustin Thames, and Todd Pierson.

Conservation Committee:

Nothing new to report from the committee. Questions were raised about Bluegrass Underground. Dr. Matthew Niemiller has been contacted to survey the cave, and The Nature Conservancy is heavily involved in the project. Though no impacts are expected for the Tennessee Cave salamander, discussion progressed about whether THS should issue a letter expressing concern and/or thanking them for their conservation effort.

Chad Lewis Memorial Grant Committee

The committee is considering increasing the number of awards – potentially developing categories for graduate, undergraduate, and even high school awardees. Discussion was had about use of the CD currently and in the future. More promotion of the grant is needed. Discussion was also had about how to minimize conflict with university grants offices about indirect costs including calling it a

scholarship rather than a grant or awarding the grant directly to the student. The Committee will devise a plan for review understanding that the decision has impacts on tax-exempt purchases. Clarification is needed for whether the grant is awarded for previous work or for upcoming work.

Website:

The THS domain is paid for 2 additional years. The Frogs of Tennessee page was moved to the THS site, and Lisa Powers is currently migrating the salamanders page. Lisa continues to work on the Snakes of Tennessee page, but is in need of species descriptions. Volunteers are welcome. Turtles and lizards are also mostly complete. More reports are coming for non-native species (e.g. Mediterranean Gecko). The Facebook page for snake identification is more efficient than emails to the web site. Lisa welcomes feedback on the website.

Publication/Newsletter Committee:

We continue to request new submissions. The Tennessee Journal of Herpetology may be found at:
<http://tnherpsociety.wixsite.com/home>.

Treasurer's Report:

Members approved last year's report. Balance in the checking account is \$13,940 and the CD

balance is \$12,138. Participate and support the auction to support our Chad Lewis Memorial Grant.

New Business:

New Elections:

Vice President: David Withers

Treasurer: Chris Ogle

East TN Representative: Steven Nelson

Middle TN Representative: Danny Bryan

New Hats: Josh Campbell is searching for a company to produce new THS hats. EcoWear is an option, but they require an artist to digitize a picture for \$150 and a minimum order of 48 hats at \$10/hat. If anyone has other leads, please let Josh know.

Travel Award Committee: Matthew Niemiller and Denise Kendall wish to support an annual \$100 travel award to support student attendance at the annual THS meeting. A new committee, the Travel Award Committee, was formed to administer this annual award.

2019 Annual THS Meeting: Hosts are requested for the 2019 meeting in east Tennessee. Rainforest Adventures and the Grey Fossil Museum were suggested as potential locations.

**2018 Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Herpetological Society
Lichterman Nature Center
East Memphis**

We hope to see you there!